

This meets the present requirement and, so there is no current proposal under consideration to increase this number.

(c) and (d) Government from time to time have taken up with Saudi Arabia to ensure the best possible facilities for Indian pilgrims, and have received requisite co-operation from Saudi Arabian authorities.

[Translation]

Flesh Trade

1434. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned 'Deh Vyapar ki shikar Mahilaon ka adda ban gaya hai Bharat' appearing in the 'Navbharat Times' dated December 22, 1996;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the preventive measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Representatives of the Asian Women Human Rights Council (AWHRC) and the supporting groups of the South Asian alliance against trafficking had met the SAARC Foreign Ministers who attended the 17th Session of the SAARC Council of Ministers in New Delhi on December 19-20, 1996, and made a representation on the issue of trafficking in women and children in South Asian countries. The SAARC Foreign Ministers noted the suggestions put forward by the AWHRC in its representation.

(c) The issue has been under collective consideration by SAARC, including *inter-alia*, in an appraisal conducted recently on Girl Children in Exceptionally Difficult Circumstances (GCEDC) in the region, which is to be submitted to the Ninth SAARC Summit. At the national level, action is being taken to notify suitable police officers as trafficking Police Officers under the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act. CBI is taking necessary action in identifying the gangs which are involved in the trafficking and sale of victims of sexual exploitation. State Governments are also intensifying raids so as to check trafficking of girls and women.

[English]

New Defence Production Units

1435. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have worked out a plan of action for modernisation/expansion/upgradation and setting up of new defence production units in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof with state-wise break up and major projects cleared for implementation, particularly in Maharashtra;

(c) the details of the projects formulated, but are under various stages of approval and implications thereof; and

(d) the details of progress achieved on ongoing major projects, project-wise with provision of funds made during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) To meet the emerging requirements of Armed Forces, lines of production in defence production units are, in the normal course, updated through renewal and replacement of plant and machinery and introduction of improved technology. Since adequate facilities exist in the country, there are no plans presently to set up new production units.

(b) and (c) Do not arise

(d) details are furnished in the statement attached.

Statement

The details of progress achieved in on-going major projects alongwith provision of funds made for them during the current year are as follows:

Ordnance Factories :

(a) New filling factory being set up at Badmal in Bolangir district for filling of high calibre ammunition. Project is likely to be commissioned by mid-1997. Funds allotted: Rs. 33.04 Cr.

(b) 5.56 mm ammunition project at Ammunition Factory Kirkee and Ordnance Factory Varangaon. Production already commenced. Funds allotted: Rs. 26.35 Cr.

Accident at Kandla Port

1436. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to recent accident at Kandla Port, three jetties have become inoperative;

(b) if so, the alternative arrangement being made or proposed to be made to overcome the resultant difficulties;

(c) if not, whether the Government have considered the proposal of IOC to build jetty on its own to facilitate the smooth working at the Kandla Port; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. In fact two virtual jetties constructed by the Government Oil Companies became inoperative during October, 1996 due to an accident. The Government Oil Companies and the Port authorities have managed to recommission one of the virtual jetties recently while the other jetty would be recommissioned shortly. No difficulty was faced during this period regarding handling of the cargo.